



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



**The International Treaty**  
ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES  
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

## RESOLUTION 6/2017

### IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 6, SUSTAINABLE USE OF PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

#### THE GOVERNING BODY,

**Recalling** Resolutions 7/2013, 4/2015 and 5/2015, and taking note of the Report of the third meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Committee on Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture;

**Reaffirming** the key role of the sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) and the link between Farmers' Rights under Article 9 and the provisions on conservation and sustainable use of Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty;

1. **Requests** Contracting Parties and stakeholders to continue reporting on the implementation of the Programme of Work on Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and Supporting Initiatives (PoW), and **acknowledges** the contribution of these initiatives to the sustainable use of PGRFA;
2. **Requests** the Secretary, in collaboration with other stakeholders, and subject to the availability of financial resources, to:
  - i) continue cooperating with all relevant units within FAO, other entities and institutions such as the Convention on Biological Diversity and CGIAR Centres, as well as the private sector and civil society, for the effective implementation of activities in support of the PoW;
  - ii) cooperate with the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture in supporting the Voluntary Guidelines for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Crop Wild Relatives and Wild Food Plants and the finalization of the draft voluntary technical guidelines for farmers' varieties/landraces, and in promoting global networking on *in situ* conservation and on-farm management of PGRFA, global targets and indicators, and in the preparation of the Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture;
  - iii) explore the possibility of establishing a Joint Programme on biodiversity in agriculture for sustainable use of PGRFA involving relevant international organizations and other stakeholders, with a view to enhancing the mission and goals of the PoW beyond 2019 through the establishment of a long-term programme 2020-2030, for consideration by the Governing Body at its Eighth Session;
  - iv) facilitate and monitor the activities carried out by Contracting Parties, stakeholders and international organizations in support of the PoW;
  - v) continue inviting and collecting submissions from Contracting Parties, other governments, relevant institutions, organizations and stakeholders on the promotion and further improvement of measures for the sustainable use of PGRFA while reducing the

reporting duplication for Contracting Parties, which already report on the implementation of the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture;

vi) organize regional capacity-building workshops on topics such as participatory plant breeding, community seed bank development, sustainable biodiverse production systems and promoting the value of farmers' varieties, and produce documentation and reporting thereon;

vii) support national programmes in policy development for sustainable use of PGRFA, and in building partnerships and mobilizing resources;

viii) convene regional meetings on advancing characterization and sustainable use of PGRFA, including the assessment of needs of local farmers and other relevant local stakeholders and identification of possible means to address those needs, including through participatory approaches in the context of the PoW;

ix) continue collaborating with other relevant initiatives, in particular the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, on the interaction between genetic resources, community and farmer-led system activities and protected area systems;

x) further develop collaboration with CGIAR Centres and other relevant organizations, on training and capacity-building on the sustainable use of PGRFA, including through efforts for joint resource mobilization.

3. **Decides** to reconvene the Ad Hoc Technical Committee on Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, subject to the availability of financial resources, with the Terms of Reference contained in the *Annex* to this Resolution.

*Annex***Terms of reference for the Ad Hoc Technical Committee on Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture**

1. The Ad Hoc Technical Committee on Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Committee) will provide advice to the Secretary on:
  - i) implementation of the Programme of Work on Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and Supporting Initiatives;
  - ii) cooperation with other international processes and institutions in the field of sustainable use of PGRFA;
  - iii) identification of additional activities and synergies within the Programme of Work and between the Programme of Work and other areas of work of the International Treaty.
2. The Committee will comprise up to two members for each region, and up to ten technical experts designated by the Bureau, in consultation with the regions and all relevant stakeholders, in particular farmers' organizations, taking into account the required range of technical expertise, and a regional and gender balance. Two Co-Chairs from Contracting Parties of the International Treaty will form part of the Committee – one from a developing country and one from a developed country. The Co-Chairs will be elected by members of the Committee designated by the regions.
3. The Secretary will continue maintaining and updating the list of experts for further reference. This will be made available to Contracting Parties with a possible view to expanding the pool of experts on sustainable use.
4. The Committee will work electronically and, if needed, may hold one meeting in the biennium 2018-2019, subject to the availability of financial resources.
5. The Committee will prepare reports at the end of its meetings, which will be made available as soon as possible for written comments by Contracting Parties and relevant stakeholders. The comments are to be submitted to the Secretary, who will compile them as information for the Eighth Session of the Governing Body.
6. The Secretary will report to the Governing Body at its Eight Session on the results of the Committee's work.